

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application identified in caption in light of the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 9-38 and 40-49 are allowed (Official Action at page 2).

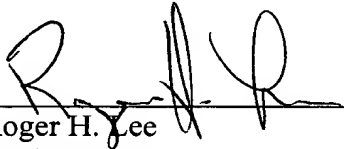
In the Official Action, the specification has been objected to for containing references to specific claim numbers. In this regard, it is respectfully noted that the specification was previously amended to delete various references to specific claim numbers. See the Preliminary Amendment filed March 11, 2002. As such, withdrawal of this objection appears to be in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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